

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Sub
#27

A computing system capable of associating annotations with millions of content sources is described. An annotation is any content associated with a document space. The document space is any document identified by a document identifier. The document space provides the context for the annotation.

One aspect of the invention is a method of associating an annotation with a content source. An annotation is represented as an object having a plurality of properties. The annotation is associated with a content source using a document identifier property. The document identifier property identifies the content source with which the annotation is associated.

A scalable computing system for managing annotations responds to requests for presenting annotations to millions of documents a day. The computing system consists of multiple tiers of servers. A tier I server indicates whether there are annotations associated with a content source. A tier II server provides an index to the body of the annotations. A tier III server provides the body of the annotation.

"Express Mail" mailing label number: Em287847733US

Date of Deposit: June 24, 1999

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

Printed Name: Chris Hammond

Signature: Chris Hammond